



The Branch Line

May 2nd Branch Meeting

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Dr. Judi Moreillon, Assistant Professor, School of Library and Information Studies, at Texas

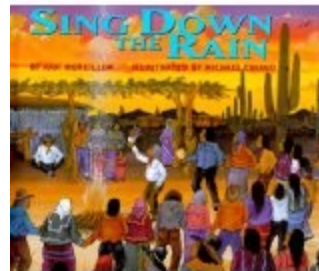


Woman's University, will address our May branch meeting.

Dr. Moreillon teaches school librarianship, children's literature, and the art of story telling. Her presentation will be about the writing of her children's book, *Sing Down the Rain*, which is a story about writing a book as a cultural outsider. She wrote the book to honor

the Tohono O'odham children with whom she learned during her first school librarian position at Elvira School in Tucson.

Copies of the book will be available for purchase at the meeting. The book will cost \$16, and Judi is donating her profit of \$8 back to the



AAUW chapter.

Judi earned a PhD from the University of Arizona, Department of Language, Reading, and Culture, in 2003.

Door prizes for the May meeting will be *She Only Wore White*, by Dorthe Binkert, and *The Starboard Sea*, by Amber Dermont.



Menu

- Chicken Marsala with Mushrooms
- Buttered Egg Noodles with Alfredo Sauce on the side
- Buttered Green Peas
- Caesar Salad with Caesar and other dressings on the side
- Strawberry Shortcake
- Tea, Coffee, Water

President's Corner

Thank you to everyone who has worked to make this year a success. Please think about the committees you would like to serve on next year. It takes everyone to make a

branch and we have dedicated women who serve and will need your help in the coming year.

Thank you, Stephany

Interbranch meeting is Saturday, May 19, 2012, at La Madeleine's, 5290 Beltline Road, Addison, TX. The meeting will be from 10am to noon and everyone is invited to stay for lunch. Attendees to the AAUW State Convention will provide the program with an update from National Director-at-Large Kathy Anton.

“31st Isn’t Good Enough for Her”

“What is the point of being the number one place to do business when we are the 37th place to be a child.” — Rep. Mark Strama

The theme of the 2012 AAUW Texas Convention, held April 13-15 in Austin, was “31st Isn’t Good Enough for Her,” a reference to Texas’ ranking among the states in educational achievement.

Panelists for the Opening General Session were Kathy Miller from Texas Freedom Network; Rep.

Mark Strama from District 50, Austin; David Hinojosa, Southwest Regional Counsel of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund; and Linda Bridges, Texas American Federation of Teachers. Georgia Kidwell, Northeast Tarrant County Branch, was moderator.

The panelists noted that rarely does Texas come close to 31st in educational rankings. More often, our state is at or near the bottom in educational achievements.

Emphasizing the importance of the

upcoming election, when all 15 seats on the State Board of Education will be filled, panelists urged all who care about public education in Texas to research the positions of the candidates before going to the polls.

Panelists also emphasized the importance of holding incumbents responsible for cutting \$5 billion from education in the last legislative session. If these legislators return to the legislature unscathed, they are likely to make additional cuts to education in the next biennium. Already, 32,000 positions have been cut in Texas schools, 12,000 of them teaching positions. In some districts, teachers are having to do their own janitorial work due to staff cuts.

Statistics cited in the discussion underscored

the growth of the school-age population in Texas. Of all new students in the nation over the last ten years, at least half were located in Texas. Texas has seen especially significant growth in the 0-5-year-old population. Yet, instead of preparing to meet the needs of these children, Texas is cutting funding and personnel.

Already 60% of children in Texas public schools are on reduced or free lunch programs, a measure of poverty among Texas families. These economically disadvantaged children require more—not fewer—resources to succeed in school.

Panelists stressed the message that the upcoming election and the next legislative session are pivotal to Texas’ future.



In 2009, fewer than 4% of public school districts in Texas taught anything other than abstinence - only sex education. Texas was among the top 5 states in teen births in 2010.



AAUW Funds Dinner Features Fellowship Recipient

The state convention’s Saturday evening festivities focused on AAUW Funds, formerly known as the Educational Foundation. AAUW Funds provide American and International fellowships for graduate students pursuing advanced degrees.



Ms. Forbes-Erickson

The dinner speaker was Denise Amy-Rose Forbes-Erickson, an AAUW Fellow at UT Austin, 2011-12. A native of Jamaica, West Indies, Ms. Forbes-Erickson is a PhD candidate

in Performance as Public Practice. Her dissertation is titled *Performance of Fluid Identities and Black Liminal Displacements by Threshold Women*.

Ms. Forbes-Erickson’s presentation included slides of her work as both an artist and a theater designer.



AAUW Texas Funds Chair
Lucy Whitacker Barrington

The Pay Gap

American women who work full time are paid only 77 cents for each dollar paid to their male counterparts. This translates into \$10,784 less per year on average for women workers.

Texas ranks 14th, with Texas women earning 80 cents for each dollar a

man earns. Wyoming has the worst earnings ratio, at 64 percent.

AAUW has long been a leader in efforts to achieve pay equity for women. Updated research has just been published in AAUW’s *The Simple Truth About the Gender Pay Gap*.

To strengthen AAUW’s effort to fight for fair pay, consider making a tax-deductible donation to AAUW’s [Public Policy Fund](#).

Know where candidates for office stand on pay equity before going to the polls in November.



March to End the War on Women

AAUW is encouraging all members to participate in marches, rallies, and protests organized across the country for Saturday, April 28, by [Unite Women](#) to end the nationwide assault on women’s rights. In Austin, the rally will be

held on the south steps of the Capitol.

In Denton, a Women’s Health Rally will be held on the square. Participants are asked to bring signs with positive messages that demonstrate

respect for women and their right to family planning and preventive health care.

Breakfast at Cartwright’s Ranch House on Elm Street at 9:30 will precede the event.



State Officers Elected at Convention

The following slate of officers for the 2012-2014 biennium were elected at the AAUW-Texas state convention:

Board President: Jeannie Best, Abilene Branch

Program Vice-President: Lucy Barrington, Lubbock Branch

Membership Vice-President: Stephany Compton, Denton Branch

AAUW Funds Vice-President:

Martha Matthews,
NE Tarrant County Branch

Finance Officer: Maria Ines Garcia, Austin Branch

Secretary / Historian: Elizabeth Newell, Austin Branch

District Representatives:

North District:

Jan Domaracki, Farmers Branch Carrollton, and Ginny Phoenix, NE Tarrant County Branch

Central District:

Judy Reinhart, Austin Branch

West District:

Elizabeth Matarazzo, El Paso Branch

South District, North:

Marjorie Nash, W. Harris County and Alvin Branches

South District:

AAUW Regional Five-State Conference June 8-9, Oklahoma City

The AAUW Regional Five-State Conference will be held June 8-9 at the Embassy Suites, 815 South Meridian, in Oklahoma City. The conference theme is "AAUW: Stepping Up to the Future."

Linda Hallman, AAUW National Director, will keynote the conference on Saturday morning. The conference will begin with a reception from 7-9 Friday night.



Linda Hallman

Patricia Fae Ho, AAUW vice-president, will be in attendance and make presentations. Special attention will be given to the newly published research report, *Drawing the Line: Sexual Harassment at School*.

The ten breakout sessions will include: *Grant Writing for Suc-*

cess; Using AAUW Electronic Resources; One Person CAN Make a Difference; Public Policy in An Election Year; What AAUW Does For You; How to Manage Successful Development and Fundraisers; and Revitalizing Your Branch.

Other special events include a luncheon featuring an LAF plaintiff or lawyer, fundraisers for AAUW Funds, an evening reception and Turkish Coffee Party, an optional river cruise, a special presentation on human trafficking, and other exciting activities.

The optional River Cruise will be Saturday evening from 6:30– 8 for a cost of \$45, which includes dinner. The deadline for reservations is May 26. Contact Pat Snodgrass at psnodgra4@sbcglobal.net, or call 405-348-5430.

Vendor booths are also available for \$20 per table. Contact Faye Henson at epita@cebridge.net or

call 580-772-5984 for the vendor submission form.

A silent auction will benefit AAUW Funds.

The newly renovated Embassy Suites hotel will be the conference headquarters. Hotel rates are \$109.00 (per room, occupancy up to four) plus 13.88 % tax. A block of rooms will be held at this rate until May 30, 2012. Breakfast is complimentary for hotel guests. Hotel reservations must be made separate of registration at 405-682-6000.

For more information about the conference, or to receive the conference application form, contact Shirley Breeze at

sbreeze@mindspring.com.



Shirley Breeze

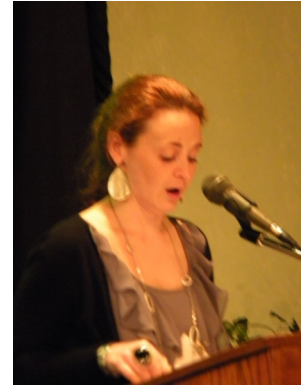
Minutes of April Branch Meeting

**American Association of University Women
Denton Branch
Wednesday, April 4, 2012**

Introduction of Speaker: Linda Murphy

Presenter: Kristin Alder

Program: Domesticating the UN's Agenda on Women, Peace and Security: the Role of the Women's International League of Peace and Freedom in the US National Action Plan on UN Security Resolution 1325



Kristin Alder

Business Call to Order: President Stephany Compton

Minutes: Maggie Dodd, Acting Secretary

Treasurer's Report: to be delivered at later date

Old Business: Patsy Roe will serve as the Branch Delegate to the AAUW Texas State Convention April 13- 15, 2012; Austin TX Sheraton-Austin

By-Laws Update: Date due is May 15, 2012; mandated changes in wording from National

New Business: Another location for AAUW meeting will be sought by Dr. Lavon Fulwiler, Cathy Snyder, and Renee Sims.

Inter-Branch Meeting will be held Saturday, May 19th, 2012 9:30-11:30 A.M. in Carrollton

Announcements: Gail Rutledge reminded of the Women's Healthcare March on the Denton Square Saturday, April 28th 11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

Patsy Roe spoke of the Student Loan Affordability Act

Kay Goodman announced the ARC clothing donation drive April 30th 1:00-7:00 at Fremaux's parking lot

Books Drawing: Cathy Snyder delivered to the drawing winners: Gail Rutledge and Shelly Seyller, who was a guest of Denise Philpot.

Adjournment

**ARC clothing
donation drive
April 30, 1-7,
Fremaux's
parking lot.**